



SPARK GAP

Vol. 34, Issue 9 September 2017 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-four years*

On Our MARC:

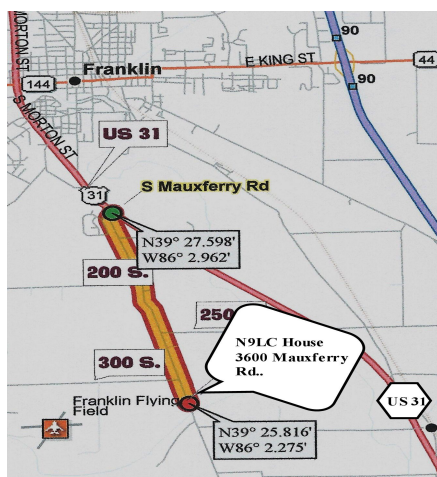
I can't believe that another year has gone by. Where has the time gone? Seems with getting older, the time seems to go faster than when I was a kid. Can we go back a few years please?

I'd like to thank Bruce Tisdale, Rhonda Curtis, Marlys Barr, and Chris Frederick for a great job. I would also like to thank the IT Team for working hard on getting our Website up to date and the PIO Team for getting our name out to the public Thanks to Bob LaGrange for serving as editor-in-chief of the Spark Gap. Thanks to the membership for all the support that you have given the club.

A big thanks to those that came out to Heartnut. Weather was good. Not a lot of vendors at the festival this year. It was also a one day event. We moved to a different space and seemed to work better. We didn't have to worry about people tripping over wires thanks to Wilson for roping the area off. Steve, Ron, Jack and Noel were working the radios. Kevin and Glenn did the cooking.

Just a reminder, that our yearly picnic is Sept 16th at Steve Brown's house. Club will provide the meat, lemonade, ice tea and water. Please bring a side dish and chairs. This is a family events so please bring the spouse and kids!! Also, if you haven't mailed or emailed your ballots, please don't forget to bring them to the picnic. We will have some blank ones at the picnic. Hope to see everyone there.

Jacki – KI6QOG
President



*MARC Picnic – N9LC Steve Brown's Ranch
3600 Mauxferry Road Franklin, Indiana*



Birthdays for the month of September:

KC9OAE - Stephanie Brown

W9DBA - Scott Nelson

KA9YKN - William Spann

Learn how to communicate during disasters, emergencies, and community events.

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio®



Use your ham radio license to serve the community.

ARRL's volunteer Amateur Radio operators help their communities in good times and bad, through community events, disaster response, and various programs. You can use your ham radio license to serve the community too. These items are perfect for all public service and ARES® volunteers, both trained in the field or just getting started.



[The Amateur Radio Public Service Handbook](#) is for all hams that volunteer their time and skill to serve their communities. It provides knowledge needed for communicating quickly and effectively during disasters, emergencies, and community events, as well as an opportunity to learn more about the Amateur Radio Service and its unique role in supporting the public.

Only \$24.95 - [Order Now](#)

ARRL Item No. 4845

[ARES Field Resources Manual](#) is a quick trainer and field resource guide for the emergency communicator. It is a reference for amateurs deployed in the field for emergency services work, primarily through ARES.

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ARRL Item No. 5439

[ARES Magnetic Sign](#) is great for public service and emergency communications support activities.

Only \$12.95 - [Order Now](#)

ARRL Item No. 9413

Dress the Part! ARES t-shirt, polo shirt, reflective vests, and hat [available from ARRL](#).

September is National Preparedness Month

For more information on the Amateur Radio Emergency Service visit www.arrl.org/ARES



Johnson County Heartnut Festival Picture Essay

September 9, 2017

Pictures by Jack W8ISH



ARRL finally realizes status quo isn't going to cut it

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

An item in the July 2017 ARRL board meeting caught my attention. It notes that a committee of staff members was tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The August 3, 2017 issue of the ARRL Letter ran the following report:

“ARRL Chief Executive Officer Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, presented the report of six Headquarters staffers who had been tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and devising feasible solutions. Specifically, the committee addressed market research findings that have continued to reveal that only a small percentage of new hams join the League, and only about one-half of new hams actually get on the air.

“The committee began with the premise that ARRL must act in order to remain relevant going forward. It proposed instituting a Lifelong Learning Program to focus on developing a clear developmental path for all radio amateurs, from newcomers to established radio amateurs. The committee recommended the creation of new programs and services to increase the knowledge base of newcomers in order to get them active, as well as programs to keep experienced amateurs up to date with changing technology and practice.”

The board meeting minutes were a little more detailed:

“Mr. Roderick yielded the floor to CEO Gallagher who presented the report of a committee of staff members tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The members of the committee – Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF; Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY; Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ; Steve Ford, WB8IMY; and Sean Kutzko, KX9X, joined the meeting at 9:20 AM, to present this report. Their findings show the importance to ARRL of getting newly licensed hams actively on the air and how that relates to continued growth of the organization. In order to achieve that goal, the committee proposed developing a lifelong learning department, which would address the needs of all amateurs with the focus being on developing a clear knowledge path for all amateurs. They proposed creating straightforward programs and services to enhance the knowledge base of new amateurs as well as to enhance their sense of community within the hobby.

“Another recommendation involved refocusing the priorities of the emergency preparedness department to address the current trends in public service.

“A third recommendation was to improve the value proposition of membership. The committee proposed doing a survey, which would include test material that is targeted to the interests of newer hams. The content would include a strong emphasis on serving communities, agencies, and partners; digital communications, and human interest. Projects would be simple. The survey would obtain information on new ham's interests and needs in the hobby. The survey would also try to determine the delivery system that might best meet the newcomer's desire for receiving this type information (print, digital, messaging, etc). The test material is proposed to be delivered to recipients in fall 2017.

“From the committee's vantage point, **the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership** [*emphasis is mine...Dan*]. If we do not convey the need to change the paradigm, the ARRL's relevancy will not move forward.”

The good thing here is that the ARRL finally realizes that there are some serious problems. I've written about these in the past. I've challenged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of the licensed amateurs in the U.S (<http://www.kb6nu.com/arrl-membership-is-25-asking-too-much/>). I've also encouraged the ARRL to play a bigger part in emergency communications research (<http://www.kb6nu.com/go-big-go-early-go-fast-smart/>).

Unfortunately, it appears that the ARRL is approaching this issue in typical ARRL fashion. That is, working on these issues in their little cocoon in Newington and then issuing these statements as if they expect everyone to just fall in line. I quote, "From the committee's vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership." That approach is doomed to failure. Any "visioning" or strategic planning that doesn't get the membership involved right from the start just isn't going to work.

The ARRL HQ staff just doesn't have the horsepower to pull this off properly. The staff is already pretty bare bones, and they still have to publish QST every month, keep Logbook of the World running, process thousands of license applications, etc., etc. The only way this is going to be a fruitful effort is if they get members—and lots of them—involved in this process.

If you agree with me, please let your director know. Contact your director and tell him that you want to be involved. The status quo of having the HQ staff not working with the membership "is no longer adequate." That's how we got here in the first place.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

2017 ARRL Indiana Section Simulated Emergency Test

Saturday September 30, 2017 8 AM - 11 AM

Indiana Section ARES® Nets

The Indiana Section ARES® HF net is held on 3.900 MHz every Sunday at 5:00 PM EST. The Net Script and Log can be found via the Links Below.

Net Manager: Joseph Lawrence K9RFZ k9rfz@yahoo.com

The Indiana ARES® HF Digital Net is held every Wednesday at 8:30 PM Eastern Time except the second Wednesday of the month on or about 3.583 MHz using Olivia 8/500.

Net Manager: Matthew Becdol, W9SOX

If you want to become a part of Johnson County ARES/RACES please contact Bob N9SIU, n9siu@yahoo.com for an application.

..... de Bob LaGrange N9SIU Johnson County Indiana ARES

GREATER GREENWOOD COMMUNITY BAND FESTIVAL

When it comes to orchestrating a Special Event, Bob LaGrange-N9SIU knows how to pull some strings. With nearly a dozen club members Bob helped direct parking and other security measures for the third annual Greenwood Community Band festival. The Mid-State ARC crew helped direct people to their parking spots beginning at 10am Saturday August 25th at the Surina Park amphitheatre in Greenwood. FRS radios were used to coordinate with golf cart shuttles running band members with instruments and guests to the amphitheatre from nearby Craig Park athletic field parking lots.

On hand to help were Glenn Beasley-KD9HFP, Bill Jackson-KM6CRL, Chris Rose-KC9YIA, Wilson Low-KD9FBC, Kevin Nurtzman-K9NTZ and Scott Nelson-W9DBA and Jack Parker-W8ISH. Bob-N9ISU is a Baritone horn player in the Greenwood Community Band so he pulled double duty as event communications director and then played with the band at their morning and even performance.

Each year community bands from around the state like Terre Haute, Zionsville, the Crossroads Brass Band and the ISO band pack up their horns, woodwinds and percussion instruments and head to Greenwood for the day long jam fest. In between performances Bob was taking notes on how to better coordinate our amateur radio duties and the band's efforts in hosting a day long band event. By way of introduction, Greenwood Mayor Mark Myers told the audience that the band brings a great sense of pride to the community. He later told this reporter that he is pleased to have Amateur Radio operators help with parking and communications.

Next up: The Greenwood High School Regional band contest September 23rd. See Bob to sign up.
-Jack w8ish



The Band plays



Bill directs



Chris, Bob and Glenn put up a sign



Wilson stands guard



Chris directs traffic

UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

09/09/2017 – Johnson County “Heartnut Festival” Johnson County Park

09/16/2017 – 0800 - MARC Monthly club and annual picnic at N9LC Steve Brown's Ranch

09/23/2017 – Greenwood Marching Band Invitational, Greenwood High School. More info to follow.

09/30/2017 – Statewide Simulated Emergency Test

10/21/2017 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the New Location.

10/31/2017 – Halloween – Goblin Patrol – after 1830

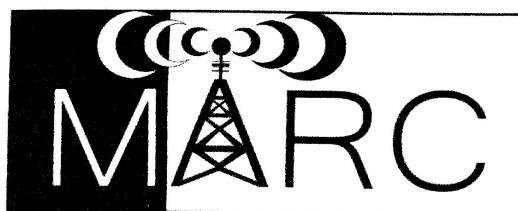
Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

11/18/2017 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the New Location.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

12/16/2017 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the New Location.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.





Thanks Chris, KQ9Y



The picture above is of my QRP CW rig on August 21st the day of the Eclipse. I stayed home that day and monitored the air waves just to see if there was anything that might be noticeable during the event. I did notice some fading on 20 meter that possibly be due to atmospherics more than the eclipse. There was some traffic on the CW bands and did make three contacts that day on 20 meter. With this small QRP CW rig I do have six bands I can use and full band coverage even for phone (listen only). It was a fun day and looked at the ecilipse with my very own “pin hole camera” no chance of damaging my eyes that way. de Bob N9SIU

MID-SATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF Repeater:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Bruce Tisdale -- K9ICP
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H
Treasurer: Marlys Barr – KD9BHM
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month



Special thanks to Johnson County REMC for the use of their community room for meetings and testing.